

# BARTON COUNTY DEMOCRAT.

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## DEMOCRATIC COUNTY TICKET.

For County Treasurer,

HENRY J. KLEIN.

For Sheriff,

D. C. LUSE.

For County Clerk,

FRED M. LUTSCHG.

For Registrar of Deeds,

ELMER S. BRODIE.

For Coroner,

DR. G. L. KOCH.

For Commissioner 1st District,

MATT DICK.

## SOME EARLY HISTORY.

Four of The Pioneer Settlers of Barton County, and Other Matters Historical.

(The following article, prepared for the papers upon a request for matters of a historical nature, will be found well worth preserving.—Ed.)

The pioneer in any field of human endeavor will ever remain the central figure in it. Any achievement on the pathless ocean—that absolute barrier to the migrations of the race for ages will ever be associated with the first of sailors, Columbus. The wealth of marvelous results gained by searching the depths of space with the telescope each epoch adds new laurels to the fame of the first telescopic stargazer, of whom Milton wrote: "Whose (moon's) orb through optic glass the Tuscan artist views." Magellan rather gains by each new circumnavigation of the globe. Every advance in understanding and controlling of nature's most terrific force gives to Franklin's kite flying a new increment of permanence.

The mighty factor of progress, the steam engine, is only Watt's idea dressed in iron. Each new stroke of its piston is more fully realizing its inventor's inestimable contribution to human progress. Note the stupendous economic changes wrought by the cultivation of the treeless plains of the earth. The opening of the Illinois prairies by Lincoln in 1830, an event styled by the peerless Kansan, John Davis, "A change of front of the universe," gains with each passing year newer and greater meaning. The long-established dread of the grassy plains vanished. The plow and reaper more bountifully supply the larger than had the rifle and ax.

What is true of the more extended realms applies to the limited field of Barton county history.

The fast returning seasons will more and more witness the emphasis given the first settling of a county. Of all the inhabitants of the county, past, present and future, the pioneers will historically occupy the most unique and important place. View the situation in 1870 and unstinted praise will be given those meeting the requirements. The wily redmen were still abroad, killing scores of the settlers and destroying property very freely. The noted generals, Sherman, Sheridan and Custer were busied with restricting their atrocities. The annual legislature was asked to provide means in defense of the frontier, voting \$100,000 at one time. A governor organized a regiment then resigned the executive to assume command that he might lead his men through Kansas streams in pursuit of the American barbarians. Ellsworth was then the only organized county west of the north and south tier of which Salina is one. With the probable exception of Butler there was no organized county in the Arkansas valley. The limits and name of Barton county had only recently been established by legislative fiat. An abandoned fort, a many tracked, ineffaceable government road with a minute parallel some miles distant, a camping ground or two, the debranched trees along the Walnut, a few indistinct survey marks, and a number of well-concealed dugouts in the coziest nooks of the creek were the only indications then extant that civilized beings had previously penetrated the wilds of the short grass country.

Great drouths and terrific blizzards had been, with due exaggeration reported from Kansas. Ellsworth, fifty miles away was the nearest trading point and Salina the practical one. The great Santa Fe with 27 miles of

track had not yet left Topeka for the west. These were surroundings of the first settlers. To leave all the delights and conveniences of a modern metropolis for the certain hardships of the then frontier required those traits of character eminently worthy of praise, yes, of emulation.

Reinecke, Wilka, Schultz and John are the names destined to be permanently linked with the history of Barton county. The proud distinction of having wrested from a wilderness state the fairest creek valley in Kansas is theirs.

JOHN REINECKE—The province of Hanover, Germany, is the place of his nativity. The school advantages of his early years he well utilized—farm work engaged his attention later on—married in 1868 and during the same year at the age of twenty-six departed from Germany for the United States, choosing a home near Chicago—from viewing a map of Kansas determined to settle on the Walnut—started from Chicago about March 1, 1870 for Salina, visited the German settlement on Spillman creek in the northwest part of Lincoln county, and there met Anton Wilka with whom arrangements were made to spy out their future lands. Today, after nearly thirty years of exemplary industry and economy amid the many trying and discouraging seasons that were, Mr. Reinecke is a very well to do citizen, highly respected and widely known.

ANTON WILKA—Bohemia is his native province, and the year 1840 the time of his birth. By application became possessed of all that the schools of the place afforded. Chose for his vocation that which in all the years and conditions of the race since its introduction has been an unqualified mark of industry, that of a smith. To have fostered in a full measure the good of "militarism" to the individual, served eight years in the Austrian army. Bade farewell to his native country in 1868, having Detroit the destination of the journey. Brushed Michigan dust from his shoes in the fall of '69 journeying to Lake Superior then through Minnesota and Nebraska, on south to the German neighborhood in Lincoln county, Kansas. About one score years ago Mr. Wilka left Barton county, and most of the time since lived in that magnificent metropolis situated on the immediate eastern edge of the colossal silver-stratified backbone of the continent.

HENRY SCHULTZ—Was born in Hanover province, Germany, in 1840. Was schooled in the village of his birth. Applied his time to farming. Sailed to America in 1865, selecting Chicago as an abiding place. Married two years later. With Reinecke left Chicago for Salina, Kansas, in March of 1870. Henry Schultz does not now live on his old homestead, but still owns and farms it. A well equipped farm three miles farther west contributes to his comfort and well being. His home being on a considerable rise of ground a commanding view is his over that part of the Walnut valley containing the original four homesteads in the county, of Heizer but a mile morningward, and of the movements of that typical machine of the age—the locomotive.

WM. JOHN—A native of Hanover, was but one year old when the rumblings and shocks of the great revolution that brought Schurz to America disturbed his childish sense of hearing. Equipped with such an education as only every native German can boast he applied himself to shoemaking. His fatherland he bade farewell to in 1867, making for Chicago. His claim and home became well known, as for years the only bridge beyond the one at the mouth of the Walnut was near his place. Though abundantly courageous to encounter the hardships of the wilderness he has thus far failed to venture into the realm of conjugal bliss. Some few years ago he rented his farm and went to Chicago.

In the first days of March 1870 Wilka became acquainted with Reinecke, Schultz and John who were from the same village in Germany and were relatives. The purposes of the four were the same—search for desirable land. Their objective point was the Walnut valley. Reinecke and Wilka were asked to explore the unknown region. The appointed and willing spies walked out from Ellsworth along the government road to Ft. Zarah. Though finding neither milk nor honey, not even magnificent clusters of grapes, yet on beholding that grand view of the Arkansas and Walnut bottoms possible from the bluff northeast of the fort they were as determined as Caleb of old to possess the land of their spying, making haste to return with their report.

Schultz and Reinecke rented a house

in Ellsworth for six months for their wives. Each had about \$600 in money. A team of horses, wagon, plow and harrow were bought between them. The four pioneers accompanied by the Ellsworth surveyor then proceeded to advance the banner of civilization into the now best wheat district of the state. Their first work in the newly adopted locality was to locate the desired claims. To accomplish this a line was surveyed from Ft. Zarah along the Walnut to where their choices were. By doing this, the indistinct marks of the government survey were found and descriptions of the claims made possible. The scientific help cost \$50.

The choice trees for miles from the mouth of the Walnut had fallen before the axes of the soldiers formerly stationed at Ft. Zarah. So to have a supply of good timber for building purposes the pioneers necessarily settled on the creek where none but beavers had ever interfered with the growth of the sylvan belt, accounting in full why the first claims were taken more than ten miles from the military post and not near it.

America was discovered by accident, named by another. The most gigantic naval battle in history was won by one who, by accident, was the commander for the day. By accident the most conspicuous landmark (a ten foot ledge of Dakota sand stone rising from the bed and on the bank above a considerable bluff whose bank line is almost a continuance of the creek's) found on the banks of the Walnut will ever be commemorative of the pioneers of its valley, it being on one of the original claims. The claims taken had the following locations: Reinecke's, S. E. 1, and Schultz N. E. 1, of S. 10; Wilka's, S. E. 1, S. 3, and John's, N. E. 1, S. 4, all in R. 14 W., T. 19, S. Buffalo township. These claims are the first land of the really distinct valley of the Walnut. Below that he creek bottom and that of the river are one.

What appears to have been true, ages ago, that is, that the Walnut extended only this far down, is an undeniable fact today, for it is in sight of Reinecke's door yard that the purling waters of the Walnut are swallowed up by the mighty torrents of the Koa ditch.

When the survey was completed about March 15 dugouts were made and some ten acres broken and planted with corn. But two score years before, Lincoln abandoning the drudgery of a wooded Indiana farm, had ventured to try the possibilities of the Illinois prairies and by breaking fifty acres was for that year the greatest prairie breaker on earth. Now with ten acres of corn to their credit the pioneers had become the greatest farmers in the Arkansas valley. Some little improvements were made on each of the four claims, and their good faith as settlers thus established. Wilka and John left their claims, having been on them three weeks, to find employment on the Kansas Pacific then under construction to Denver. The real brunt of the frontier, therefore, for the next five months rested on Schultz and Reinecke. Their claims joined; their equipments were in common; their labors were directed to the equal improvement of each place. Thus at the very inception of Barton history we find an example of mutual co-operation very worthy of note, and more, of emulation. Once a month the two remaining settlers quitted their lonely abodes to report to their life companions on the Smoky that all was yet well in the valley of the Walnut. And after having renewed their acquaintance they with a supply of rations again resumed their posts as sentinels of the frontier.

The summer of 1870 was very dry and as a consequence, the first corn crop was very typical of many that have been grown since. Enough was raised to feed the team for the year. While the crop was growing two very comfortable log cabins were constructed.

The first to follow and unite his fortune with the pioneers was Henry Meyer. He came some three weeks after them and when some improvements were made, like Wilka and John, sought employment on the K. P. Ry. In the fall of 1870 new recruits arrived, and the next spring others, so that by the summer of 1871 all the government land along the Walnut in the county was taken. Among the new comers were Mecklem, Breining, Kellar, Ballie, Netfield, Graham, Dodge, Hubbard, Benedict and Gruber. To more than mention them would make sufficient material for a separate article. F. M. LUTSCHG.

See Diefenbacher for honest tailoring.

## LOCAL HAPPENINGS.

John Vesecky, of near the Rush county line now reads the DEMOCRAT.

C. W. Couchman has bought the Ashley farm in the north part of the county.

Mrs. Leon Roberts, who was very ill last week, is reported improving.

Chas. Andereac, the Comanche township stock man, was in the city Tuesday.

Grandma Merritt, mother of W. G. Merritt, has been quite ill for some time.

Charley Montgomery was feeling the public pulse, Tuesday, in the county seat.

Mrs. H. E. Turck and son, of Ellinwood, left for Colorado on a vacation, Monday.

Mrs. G. L. Chapman entertained a few lady friends at an afternoon tea, Tuesday.

S. S. Wagaman, of near Verbeck, has been enjoying a visit from his nephew, W. E. Thornton.

Miss Nora Cook returned last week from a visit of several weeks to relatives in Oklahoma.

The Gove City ball team beat the Hoisington club Saturday the 5th, the score being 15 to 8.

Gove City beat LaCrosse, on the 3d inst., by a score of 22 to 16, and the Chieftain calls it a "hotly contested game."

A young child, of Wm. Escues, a colored man living south of the river, died very suddenly and was buried Sunday the 6th.

Miss B. Newsom, of Indiana, is visiting during the summer with the family of W. L. Simmons, in the north part of the county.

Some material is being got on the grounds for new sidewalks along the north side of Forest avenue and both sides of Broadway.

Mr. Culbertson has sold his interest in the dry goods business to his partner, Mr. Shafer. Mr. Culbertson left on Monday for Newton.

Manager D. Hall of the Clafin Creamery was over to see Great Bend get eaten up by the Gove City boys, in the ball game Tuesday.

Sterling beat Larned last week, in both games—Monday 8 to 5 and Tuesday 10 to 4. Another "put up job" on poor Larned. See, Tom.

If you have any friends to visit you the DEMOCRAT would be glad to tell all the people about it. Drop us a postal card, and we'll do the rest.

The Messenger tells of a Eureka girl who wears her stockings wrong side out because "it makes her legs cool to turn the hose on them." See?

C. J. French, of Pawnee Rock, and C. R. Snyder and Henry Bowler, of Hoisington, are new readers added to the DEMOCRAT list last week.

E. J. Westgate, clerk of the Appellate court, was down from Garden City last Friday and favored this office with an appreciated call.

A double wedding, in which one of the hustling young business firms of this city is interested, is promised for an early date. Now who do you suppose it can be?

Here's to the chigger, that grows no bigger than the point of a very fine pin. But the lump that he raises, burns like blazes—and right there's where the "rub" comes in.

The man who "does not take the paper" is still around with his advice as to how the paper should be run. Thanks, awfully, Mister; but we will try our own way yet a while.

Good, 7 jeweled, stem wind watch, only, \$3.50, at Patterson's.

It is quite probable that, before snow flies, Graet Bend and Ellinwood will be connected by telephone. The National Automatic Telephone Co. is said to be pushing the work now to completion.

KANSAS now has a population of 1,425,112 according to the latest compilation of the enumeration made by the township assessors. Barton county's population is 13,601, a gain of 664 over 1898.

J. H. Reed and Mrs. Jacob Peffley, of the south side, received a telegram Saturday that their father was at the point of death at his home in Ohio. They left for the east Saturday evening.

Col. W. E. Huttman, of Wichita, who recently suffered a stroke of paralysis, is slowly recovering the use of his limbs; but the doctors do not promise much hopes of his ultimate recovery.

Ira Clark and the Hoisington preachers are bewailing a dearth of spring chicken. Help us create an interest in the Barton County Poultry Association, Ira, and spring chicken will be more plentiful another year.

The A. O. U. W. of Rush county will hold a grand reunion and picnic, at Kennedy's grove, on the Walnut, next Tuesday, August 15th. A number of Workmen from the west side of Barton county are intending to attend.

L. B. Coss and Mrs. Albert Merten, of the west side, were called to the deathbed of Mrs. Merten's father, in Cherokee county last week. Deceased was a brother of Mr. Coss, and resided in this county some years ago.

Matt Dick of Ellinwood has been nominated for re-election to the office of county commissioner of Barton county. Matt is an old fashioned Democrat but has been nominated by both the Populists and Democrats and has the respect of all parties—Hutchinson News.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hemker of this city, on Monday Aug. 7th, a fine girl baby. It is a debatable question as to which is tickled the most, Grandpa Fred Miller or Papa Fred? One thing is unquestioned—and that is there is joy in the whole household.

Wedon't want to borrow trouble but it would be well for threshermen to remember that no threshing season has passed in this county without one or more men losing a hand or a few fingers in separators. Remember those blamed cylinders are loaded.

The W. C. T. U. at Hoisington has over \$100 subscribed as a fund to offer as rewards for information "leading to the arrest and final conviction of any person or persons found violating the prohibitory liquor law" in Hoisington. Now there's a chance for professional spotters. If the people over there do not have to pay the reward—when conviction fails—they can chip in and help pay the expenses of prosecution, through the tax collectors office.

H. E. Nordman, who operates the skimming station at Timken, in company with Chas. King, one of the Timken merchants, made us a brief call Tuesday. Mr. Nordman has been frequently spoken of as a candidate for Registrar of Deeds. It is conceded that he is well qualified for the office, being an excellent penman, and having the misfortune to lose an arm, he is debarred from employment accessible to others. We hope to see him receive the nomination.—LaCrosse Chieftain.

Miss Connett desires the DEMOCRAT to correct a statement of last week that "Miss Bessie Connett entertained her young

lady friends at the third ward home last Friday." She says she "did not entertain her friends, that it was a party of young folks who came down there to have a picnic, instead of going to the creek." Hope this will "square" matters.

DIED—On Friday, August 4th, 1899, at 12 o'clock, at her home a few miles south-west of town, Mrs. Antonie M. Buess, wife of M. Buess, aged 49 years, 6 months and 2 days. Funeral services were held at the residence at 4 p. m. August 6th, and the remains interred in the Great Bend cemetery. Mrs. Buess had been in poor health for a year or more, although able to be about her work most of the time. She leaves a husband and one son, Emanuel, a sister Mrs. Jos. Troilett and brother A. Bobeck.

R. B. McCracken, of Cumberland, Ohio, a younger brother of A. S. McCracken of north of town, came out last week for a two weeks outing in breezy Kansas. Mr. McCracken is a grain man, and is enjoying his visit in the great grain field of the west.

Jacob Hahn, of near Ellinwood, was up to the county seat Monday, and made this office an appreciated call. Mr. Hahn says he will raise a little of everything this year—corn, wheat, oats, barley, fruits etc., and believes that the best plan for every year.

Frank Ewing and Mr. Morris, of the College, Will Zimmerman the painter and Everett Zimmerman of the Electric Light works, left on Tuesday morning for a trip by wheel down into Missouri. They expect to be gone a couple of weeks.

Mrs. Chas. F. Barnett returned a couple of weeks ago from her visit to relatives at Newton, Iowa. She had a pleasant visit, and reports everything in a flourishing condition in the Hawkeye State.

Jesse James left Monday morning for a visit to Eureka Springs, Ark., in the hope of building up his health again. The good wishes of a large number of friends go with him.

The county treasurers quarterly statement appears in the DEMOCRAT this week. Notice the splendid financial condition of our county treasury.

Prof. Harris, of the Central Normal College, lectured before the Stafford county Normal institute at St. John Monday evening of this week.

Lost—In post office Aug. 4 a pocket-book containing between \$15 and \$20. If the finder is honest he will leave at this office, or with D. A. Asher.

The Great Bend colored glee club, under the management of J. H. Calmore, give an entertainment at Ellsworth Friday evening of this week.

WANTED.—Girl to assist with housework for home while attending school. Enquire second house south of the Methodist Church.

Jake Baker, of the Rock Grain Co., says they will have their elevator at Great Bend in shape to handle wheat next week.

Spring chicken on tap—a big piece, well cooked, and everything else to go with it—At McCullough's.

Miss Ruth Goode, of Rice county, came up Monday to visit with her sister, Mrs. R. A. Allison.

McCullough always serves lunches and meals on quick time and at living prices.

Those weeds are not turning out as much, went as some expected.

Notice the new advertisement of Joe Troilets.